

former specimen of this rare bird, which Mr. Yarrell figured in his second Supplement to the 'History of British Birds,' was obtained on the downs near Brighton, in the autumn of 1854.—G. R. G.

On the New British Snake *. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Mr. Bond has presented to the British Museum a fine large specimen of *Coronella austriaca*, which he took when searching for *Lacerta Stirpium* at St. Leonard's, near Ringwood, in the New Forest, in the year 1854. He always considered it as distinct; but several of his friends regarded it as only a variety of the young collared snake, *Tropidonotus Natrix*.

On a new species of Catharus. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S.

CATHARUS OCCIDENTALIS.

Cinnamomeo-brunneus, vertice saturatiore: subtus cineraceus, gula albicante, cervice et pectore fusco subobsolete flummulatis: ventre medio et crisso albis: rostro fusco-nigricante, hujus basi et pedibus pallide corylinis.

Long. tota 6·5, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·9, tarsi 1·15.

Hab. Western Mexico, Oaxaca, Totontepec (*Boucard*).

M. Sallé's recent collections from M. Boucard contain four examples of this *Catharus*. It seems clearly distinct from *C. Melpomene* of Eastern Mexico, in its rather larger size, shorter tarsi, and spotted neck and breast; these parts in *C. Melpomene* being immaculate.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* June 28, 1859.

Prize Questions.

The following questions have been submitted to competition by the Utrecht Society of Arts and Sciences:—

1. Inquiries into the development of one or more species of the Mollusca, Annelides, or Crustacea, an account of which has not yet been written, with figures illustrative of the text.

2. A series of researches on the heat generated by plants

A gold medal of the value of 30 ducats (£13 st.), or an equivalent in silver, will be awarded to each successful competitor. The answers to the first question must be sent in (post free) previous to the 30th of Nov. 1860—to the second, before the 30th of Nov. 1861; addressed to Dr. J. W. GUNNING, the Secretary of the Society at Utrecht. The author is at liberty to avail himself either of the Dutch, German (in Roman characters), English, French, or Latin language; but the answers must not be in his own hand-writing. They are to be accompanied by a sealed envelope, enclosing his name, and, if a member of the Society, having the letter "L" on the address. The successful answers will be published in the Society's works.

Further information may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Society.

* The reader is requested to make the following correction in the former notice: p. 317, line 3 from the bottom, for smooth sides read smooth scales.—Ed.